

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1806

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ZA, US

SUBJ: DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR ZAMBIA

REF: (A) STATE 139160; (B) STATE 145480

THE CONTENT, BALANCE, TONE AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR ZAMBIA (REFTEL B) IN ALMOST ALL CASES IS ON TARGET. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST SOME ALTERNATIVE WORDING AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONS. THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE MADE IN THE INTEREST OF PRECISION AND OUT OF CONCERN THAT THIS DOCUMENT MAY AT SOME POINT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

---INTRODUCTION: CHANGE THE FIRST SENTENCE TO "ZAMBIA IS A KEY STATE IN THE PEACEFUL ATTAINMENT OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, SELF-DETERMINATION IN NAMIBIA AND RACIAL JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA."

---SECTION A - TOPIC 2 - SUBSECTION 2: THE FIRST SENTENCE BEGINNING "MEDIA CRITICISM...MIGHT BE REWORDED "MEDIA CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES IS PERMITTED IF "CONSTRUCTIVE," BUT NOT CRITICISM OF THE HEAD OF STATE OR THE BASIC GOVERNING PHILOSOPHY, HUMANISM."

---SECTION A - TOPIC 3 - SUBSECTION 1: REVISE FIRST SENTENCE AS FOLLOWS: "IN TIMES OF HIGH COPPER PRICES, ZAMBIA CAN BE ONE OF THE MORE FORTUNATE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH THE RESOURCES
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TO PERMIT DELIVERY OF FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL SERVICES TO THE POPULACE."

---SECTION A - TOPIC 3 - SUBSECTION 1: THE LAST CLAUSE IN THE SECOND SENTENCE COULD BE CHANGED TO "THE GOVERNMENT IS MUCH ABOVE THE AFRICAN AVERAGE IN THIS REGARD."

---SECTION A - TOPIC 4: ADD AT THE END OF THIS SECTION:
"MOST OF THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS REPORTING FROM ZAMBIA ARE

INTERESTED IN THE LARGER SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCENE AND REPORT LITTLE ON DOMESTIC MATTERS PARTLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WISH TO TREAD ON LOCAL SENSITIVITIES AND JEOPARDIZE THEIR ACCEPTANCE IN ZAMBIA."

---SECTION B - TOPIC 1: CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE TO: "THE IMPORTANT ZAMBIAN ROLE IN THE REGION MUST SHAPE AND CONSTRAIN OUR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN IMPROVEMENT IN ZAMBIA'S OWN PATTERN OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE."

---SECTION B - TOPIC 2 - SUBSECTION 1: THE LAST CLAUSE IN THIS SECTION TO READ: "...PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS PRIVATELY MORE AT HOME WITH THE WEST."

---SECTION B - TOPIC 2: INSERT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE WHICH ENDS "MORE AT HOME WITH THE WEST." "THE PRESENT UNITED STATES POLICY EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS STRIKES A RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA SINCE IT FITS WELL WITH HIS PHILOSOPHY OF HUMANISM. TO THE EXTENT THAT UNITED STATES POLICIES ARE GOVERNED BY HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN A SYMPATHETIC HEARING BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA. HOWEVER, THIS SYMPATHY IS LIKELY TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTIVE SUPPORT ONLY IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE ZAMBIAN AND UNITED STATES INTERESTS COINCIDE, FOR EXAMPLE ON MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

---SECTION B - TOPIC 4: REPLACE THIS SECTION WITH:

4. EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON OTHER US INTEREST
ZAMBIANS BELIEVE, NOT WITHOUT SOME REASON, THAT THEIR OWN RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF MOST
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OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS. THEIR PHILOSOPHY OF HUMANISM DICTATES IT AND THEIR CONSTANT EFFORTS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, EVEN IF ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL, GIVE THEM THE IMPRESSION OF SUCCESS. AN EFFORT BY THE US TO POINT OUT THEIR FAILURES AND SEEK IMPROVEMENT WOULD BE SEEN BY THE ZAMBIANS AS HAVING ULTERIOR MOTIVES SINCE THEY WOULD BELIEVE THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE CRITICIZED IN THIS AREA WITH SINCERITY. THEY WOULD POINT TO OTHER AFRICANS WHOSE RECORD WAS WORSE (ZAIRE) AND ASK WHY WE SUPPORTED THEM. ANY SUCH EFFORTS THEREFORE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL. FURTHERMORE, ZAMBIAN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAS BEEN FREQUENT AND OUTSPOKEN WOULD SOON DISAPPEAR. THE WARMTH OF FEELING TOWARDS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH IT IS NOW HELD WOULD DISSIPATE. THIS WOULD HAVE THE IMPORTANT EFFECT OF REDUCING OUR INFLUENCE WITH A GOVERNMENT WHICH PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN ACHIEVING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE IMPACT ON OUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES COULD NOT HELP BUT BE NEGATIVE.
LOW

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